



the**collegian**

# GAMEDAYGUIDE

friday, october 4, 2013

Boone Pickens Stadium 2:30 p.m.  
**K-STATE VS. Oklahoma State University**



New names are on this weeks' Heisman Watch

3



Comparing positions: Who's got the edge?

3



kstatecollegian.com and @sportscollegian have real-time game updates

## By the numbers

Adam Suderman  
staff writer

15

Number of wins for K-State in its last 20 games following a bye week  
Under head coach Bill Snyder, the Wildcats have often capitalized after a week off. Within the 15 victories, five have come since 2010. They have won their last four games following a bye week.

32.1

The average kickoff return yards for Tyler Lockett throughout his collegiate career  
As Tyler Lockett moves up in K-State receiving rankings, the junior standout continues to excel in the return game. With the above mentioned average, Lockett ranks second nationally among active players. He also sits atop the Big 12 game rankings with an average of 32.8 yards. Teammate Tramaine Thompson sits fifth in conference career rankings with an average of 26.5 yards.

30

Number of wins for Oklahoma State in conference games since 2008  
With the mark, the Cowboys rank second amongst current Big 12 schools. Along with Oklahoma, the Cowboys are one of only two schools to have posted a winning record against the league each season during that time frame.

23

Oklahoma State's national ranking in rush defense  
Under defensive coordinator Glenn Spencer, the Cowboys have maintained a stout rush defense throughout their first four games. They have also maintained a consistent ability to get off the field after three downs. Oklahoma State has the No. 24 ranked third-down defense. To make the numbers sound better, only four other defenses have spent more time on the field this season – Oregon, Wyoming, Louisiana Tech and San Jose State.

## K-State set to take on reeling OSU



Senior wide receiver **Tramaine Thompson** blocks for junior wide receiver **Tyler Lockett** as he returns a kickoff during the second half of the Texas game on Sept. 21. Lockett broke the school record for most receiving yards during the game against the Longhorns and looked to build on his achievements in Stillwater, Okla. against the Cowboys.

Sean Frye  
sports editor

The last time the K-State Wildcats traveled to Stillwater, Okla., the Wildcats trailed the Oklahoma State Cowboys 52-45 with one second left on the clock, and it was third-and-goal from the five yard line. On the next play, former K-State quarterback Collin Klein rolled to the right, stepped into the pocket and then fired a pass over the head of then-sophomore wide receiver Tramaine Thompson that sailed through the back of the end zone. It was the second and final loss of the 2011 regular season for the Wildcats, who later went to the Cotton Bowl, but it was a painful one nonetheless. The two teams had combined for 28 points in the final six minutes of the game and the Wildcats went toe-to-toe with the then-third ranked team in the country. Nevertheless, it was the second straight week K-State had lost as they were coming off a blowout at the hands of Oklahoma in the previous week. Last year, the Wildcats exacted their revenge with a dominating 44-30 win at Bill Snyder Family Stadium en route to a Big 12 title. Last year's game against the Cowboys was also the first time Daniel Sams had seen any meaningful playing time in Big 12 play, as Klein left the game midway through with a concussion. Sams was left with the task of not letting a 24-point lead slip. The Cowboys ended up cutting the game to 14, but K-State left victorious and Sams finished with 45 yards passing on just 5-of-6 attempts and also ran for 20 yards. "I thought Daniel did reasonably well," K-State head coach Bill Snyder said after that game. "He did not make any major mistakes, he ran out of bounds one time when we were trying to run the clock out. He does not have that figured out yet. Aside from that, he managed the game okay." Now Sams is one of two quarterbacks heavily used by the Wildcats and said he hopes to have a big role as K-State looks to rebound from its Week Four 31-21 loss to the Texas Longhorns.

"We have two quarterbacks that are playing well," Snyder said during his bye week press conference. "And as I have said before, both of them deserve the opportunity to play and both of them will have the opportunity to play." Against Texas when the Wildcats fell behind early, junior quarterback Jake Waters took the reins as the team was forced to go to the air in attempt to cut the deficit. Sams never even saw the field in the second half. Late in the fourth quarter, K-State had cut Texas' lead down to 10 points and the Wildcats were knocking on the door inside the 10 yard line. But two fumbles on consecutive drives by Waters dashed any hope of a late comeback. Snyder said this week that Waters has put that behind him, though, and that he's ready to go into Stillwater with a clean slate. "He is one of those young guys that does not let it affect him," Snyder said. "He is one of those guys that is ready to move on to the next snap, ready to move on to the next practice and ready to move on to the next game. It hurts him when it happens, but he understands that you have to play to the next snap." It wasn't all bad in Austin, Texas for K-State, though. Junior wide receiver Tyler Lockett set a school record with 237 receiving yards and leads the Big 12 in receptions per game at 7.2. This weekend, Lockett said he is going into the game looking to avenge the 2011 loss the Wildcats suffered to the Cowboys. "The last time we went to Oklahoma State we ended up losing, and this is my last time playing at Oklahoma State," Lockett said. "When you look back at it, you do not want the same thing to happen again. I think it really starts on the practice field, but I think a lot of players are really getting ready for this game on Saturday." The Wildcats had two weeks to correct the mistakes that presented so many problems in the Texas game, as K-State had a bye week last Saturday. Snyder said that having that much time to prepare magnified the issues his team has faced after its second loss. "When you lose a couple of ball games,

those things tend to grow a little bit," Snyder said. "And it is important to thoroughly investigate those things each week, win, lose or draw." One of the biggest issues on the defensive side of the ball for K-State has been the pass rush. Going into Saturday, the Wildcats are seventh in the Big 12 in sacks with just seven. Against the Longhorns, senior Wildcat defensive lineman Chaquill Reed was the only player to manage to get to the quarterback as he recorded the team's lone sack in the loss. Sophomore defensive end Marquel Bryant said this week that the defense is putting an increased emphasis on improving its ability to put pressure on the quarterback. "It is a big deal coming from the defensive ends' point of view," Bryant said. "Lately these last few games, we have not been giving too much. I feel like we can give so much more. [Oklahoma State is] more of a passing team, so it is a big deal for us to get back there. The coaches have been on us during practice and drills about our hand-work to get to the quarterback." As for the Oklahoma State Cowboys, they're coming off their first loss of the season, a 30-21 upset in Morgantown, W.Va. at the hands of the West Virginia Mountaineers. The Cowboys were initially picked as the top team in the conference in the preseason Big 12 poll. But with the Oklahoma Sooners being the only team ranked in the Top 15 of the AP Poll, the conference is anybody's for the taking this season. Snyder said that the Cowboys will come out with an increased competitiveness following the loss, though. "They will be angry. They certainly will continue to be very competitive," Snyder said. "I think it is that emotion when you lose a ballgame — the real competitive people get very upset about it and anger can be channeled in the right direction to help perform." The Cowboys are led by sophomore

ANALYSIS | pg. 6

## Analyzing the No. 21 Oklahoma State Cowboys

Sean Frye  
sports editor

The Oklahoma State Cowboys, who are 3-1 overall and 0-1 in Big 12 play this season, are one of the Big 12's most dangerous teams. The Cowboys were voted by the media as the top team in the Big 12 preseason poll and are therefore projected to win the conference. The team also returned seven starters on both sides of the ball. Offensively, the biggest threat for the Cowboys is sophomore quarterback J.W. Walsh. Walsh is currently fourth in the Big 12 in total offense with 299.5 yards per game. He's also fifth in passing yards per game (241.0) and 10th in rushing yards per game (58.5). Walsh is at the helm of one of the fastest offenses in the entire country. Currently, the Cowboys rank 31st in the country with over 78 offensive plays run per game. The Wildcats will have to deal with that tempo on the defensive side of the ball. Sophomore defensive back Dante Barnett said he feels like the tempo will be the biggest challenge. "I would say their tempo just because they are faster than any team that we have faced this year," Barnett said. "But every team in the Big 12 has a fast tempo and a spread offense. So I feel like we have been preparing all year for this." The Cowboys are one of

the worst rushing teams in the country, ranking just 72nd in rush offense. Walsh leads the team in rushing yards with just 234 yards on the year. "Their quarterback is actively involved in the run game more than they have been in the past, so it makes it more varied, more diverse," K-State head coach Bill Snyder said. Josh Stewart, the star wide receiver for the Cowboys, is Walsh's favorite target. The junior currently leads the team with 312 yards receiving. Defensively, the Cowboys are a middle-of-the-road team in the Big 12. They rank sixth in the conference in total defense with 367.5 yards given up per game. Where Oklahoma State stands out defensively is defending the run, which they are the best in the conference at. The Cowboys allow the fewest yards on the ground in the Big 12 at just 108.8 per game. That's been thanks largely in part to senior linebacker Caleb Lavey, who has 33 tackles, including 4.5 for a loss, this year. Oklahoma State's secondary though has been very suspect this year, ranking dead last in the conference. The Cowboys give up 258.8 yards per game through the air. Overall, the Cowboys are a talented team that's coming off an upset loss and is sure to be angry. They have an up-tempo offense but a shaky defense. Expect Saturday to be a hotly contested Big 12 matchup.



Oklahoma State quarterback **J.W. Walsh** scrambles away from a West Virginia defender in last week's 30-21 loss to the Mountaineers.

Courtesy Photo of the Daily O'Colly







# Heisman Watch: Week 6



Fresno State senior quarterback Derek Carr (right) celebrates his team’s win over Boise State last week with his brother David Carr, a former NFL quarterback.



K-State’s bye week came and went without a Heisman watch update. Hey, if they get the week off, so do I. But here, we are approaching Week Six of college football, and the Heisman Trophy is still very much up for grabs with a few new names in the mix. Here’s how they rank as things currently stand.

**1. Tajh Boyd (QB, Clemson)**  
Boyd accounted for all three touchdowns — all through the air — in the Tigers’ 12-point win at North Carolina State two weeks back. All together, he accounted for 282 of the Tigers’ 415 yards. Last Saturday against Wake Forest, he topped that performance with 380 total yards

and four touchdowns to push the No. 3 Tigers to 4-0. The Tigers rolled Wake Forest 56-7, during which Boyd eclipsed the 100-career touchdown barrier. Boyd’s next few opponents — at Syracuse then at home against Boston College — should be opportunities to fill up the stat book before a critical matchup with No. 8 Florida State on Oct. 19.

**2. Marcus Mariota (QB, Oregon)**  
The only team scoring more points than No. 2 Oregon right now is Baylor – 69.7 per game compared to the Ducks’ 59.8. Most recently, however, Mariota struggled passing the ball against California. The sophomore completed 11-of-25 passes for 114 yards. He still ranks in the Top 20 in the NCAA in terms of total offense with an average just under 325 yards per game despite his 147-yard outing (33 yards rushing) against the Bears. Mariota should bounce back in the passing game, so his only real concern for getting an invite to New York for the Heisman selection are road games against No. 15 Washington and No. 5 Stanford,

as well as a home game against No. 12 UCLA.

**3. Aaron Murray (QB, Georgia)**  
Murray came up big in the Bulldogs comeback win over No. 10 LSU, a game where it seemed whatever team had the ball last would win. Murray hit 20-of-34 pass attempts for just less than 300 yards and four touchdowns, including a 25-yard touchdown pass with less than two minutes to play to give the Bulldogs the lead and eventual 44-41 win. Oh yeah, and he did it without the best running back in the SEC, sophomore Todd Gurley, who was injured early in the game. Murray ranks eighth in the NCAA for total yards per game with an average 339.5 yards per game. With the heart of the Bulldogs’ schedule behind them, Murray’s toughest test the rest of the regular season is a Nov. 2 game against No. 18 Florida, which could be for the SEC East title.

**4. A.J. McCarron (QB, Alabama)**  
So long as the Tide keeps winning and McCarron stays healthy,

the senior will remain a serious contender for the Heisman. McCarron is completing 68.2 percent of his passes with a quarterback rating of 148.1 with the Tide’s next tough test being at home against LSU. If McCarron outduels LSU’s Zach Mettenberger, he’ll be in position to win a third straight national championship, and possibly Alabama’s first Heisman since Mark Ingram in 2009.

**5. Johnny Manziel (QB, Texas A&M)**  
Manziel, who ranks fifth in the NCAA in total offense with more than 360 yards per game, fueled his team to a road win against Arkansas last week, despite the Aggies’ iffy defense. If the Aggies, praying for two Alabama losses, can sneak into the SEC championship game, Manziel will be right back on top of the list.

**6. Derek Carr (QB, Fresno State)**  
The newest addition to the watch list is Carr, whose average total yards per game of just less than 375 yards ranks him third in the NCAA. The No. 23 Bulldogs’ marquee win over

Boise State was fueled by Carr’s 460 passing yards and four touchdowns. Even with his quarterback rating of 144.3, Carr’s stats will have to improve considering the Bulldogs weak schedule — with no Top 25 teams currently on it — to stay in Heisman discussions.

**7. Bryce Petty (QB, Baylor)**  
Petty ranks No. 2 in the NCAA in completion percentage, (74.6), No. 6 in total offense, (346 yards per game), No. 5 in passing yards per game, (333.7), along with many other categories he’s ranked highly in. Not to mention the Bears are leading the NCAA in scoring at just less than 70 points per game. The No. 17 Bears have yet to play a BCS school, so we’ll see how the Bears adjust to a jump in competition this week against a confident West Virginia team coming off a win over Oklahoma State.

Corbin McGuire is a senior in mass communications. Please send all comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).

# Big 12 Football Predictions: Week 6



For the first time all season, every team in the Big 12 is in action. Here’s a look at the full slate of games around the conference.

Note: The Texas Longhorns and Iowa State Cyclones play Thursday night and will not be featured.

**Kansas Jayhawks vs. No. 20 Texas Tech Red Raiders**

11:00 a.m. CDT, FOX Sports 1

One of the biggest surprises in the Big 12 this season has been the Texas Tech Red Raiders under new head coach Kliff Kingsbury. The Red Raiders are 4-0 overall and 1-0 in Big 12 play after a Week Three win over TCU.

They’re led by freshman walk-on quarterback Baker Mayfield, who is second in the Big 12 in average passing yards per game with 280.

The Jayhawks are 2-1 with their only loss coming at the hands of Rice, a team that had Texas A&M on the ropes in Week One. They come into this game riding a 21-game Big 12 losing streak dating back to 2010.

The Jayhawks’ star player has been senior running back James Sims, who is second in the league with 93.7 yards rushing per game.

While Kansas may be looking to get off the schneid in Big 12 play though, it won’t happen against the

Red Raiders’ prolific offense. Expect Texas Tech to handle this one easily.

**PREDICTION:** Texas Tech - 45, Kansas - 17

**No. 11 Oklahoma Sooners vs TCU Horned Frogs**  
6:00 p.m. CDT, FOX

The Sooners are fresh off of a dominating 35-21 win on the road against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and are now set to return home to resume conference play with a perfect 4-0 record.

Junior quarterback Blake Bell, who took the starting job from freshman Trevor Knight, shined against the Irish, passing for 232 yards

and two scores in the win.

As for the Horned Frogs, they rebounded from a loss to Texas Tech by crushing SMU 48-17, which brought their record back to an even 2-2. The Horned Frogs also dropped a Week One contest then No. 12 LSU.

TCU is led by sophomore quarterback Trevone Boykin, who has 625 yards passing and four touchdowns after taking over for senior Casey Pachall who went down with an injury in Week Two.

The Horned Frogs are a better team than most give them credit, but they aren’t good enough to overcome Oklahoma, who are looking like the Big 12’s best. Especially with this game being in Norman, Okla., the Sooners should take care of business.

**PREDICTION:** Oklahoma - 24, TCU - 13

**West Virginia Mountaineers vs. No. 17 Baylor Bears**  
7:00 p.m. CDT, FOX Sports 1

Neither team could be any hotter going into this matchup. The Mountaineers are fresh off their upset win over then No. 11 Oklahoma State, while the high-powered Bears are a perfect 3-0, one of just three undefeated teams left in the Big 12.

West Virginia has struggled to find a leader all year, but they may have found one last week in junior quarterback Clint Trickett. The Florida State transfer shined in his first start for the Mountaineers last week, throwing for 309 yards and ultimately

managing the game well enough for West Virginia to pull off a huge upset.

As for Baylor, the two-headed monster of juniors quarterback Bryce Petty and running back Lache Seastrunk is one of the most dangerous in college football. Petty leads in the Big 12 with 333.7 yards passing per game, while Seastrunk leads the league averaging 139 yards on the ground.

Last year’s game was a shootout that ended with now New York Jets starting quarterback Geno Smith and the Mountaineers beating Baylor 70-63. The game won’t likely be as high scoring this time around, but the Bears should put up enough points to outduel West Virginia.

**PREDICTION:** Baylor - 48, West Virginia - 20

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Games of the Week Preview: Week 6

Ethan Blouin  
staff writer



K-State Wildcats @ No.21 Oklahoma State Cowboys  
2:30 p.m. CDT ABC

These two teams are both coming off disappointing conference starts. Oklahoma State fell to West Virginia last week and K-State fell to Texas two weeks ago. Both teams will be looking to rebound in this game and move to .500 in conference play.

For K-State, the offense must lead the way. If that means throwing the ball 50 times, then that's what they'll have to do. Oklahoma State's defense has been very good against the run game this year, and much more susceptible to the pass. For the Wildcats defense, look for them to keep everything in front of them, and guard against the big play.

Last week for Oklahoma State, the ground game let them down. Only averaging 2.8 yards a carry will not win them most games in the Big 12. It's no secret K-State's defense has struggled against the run, as they've given up 185.5 rushing yards a game. Look for the running game to be the focus of the Cowboys attack on offense with their running backs and quarterback J.W. Walsh, who actually leads the Cowboys in rushing.

The loser of this game is basically all but eliminated from the conference title chase, as the loser would be 0-2 with games against TCU, Oklahoma and Baylor left. One last thing to remember, K-State hasn't won in Stillwater since 1999.



No. 4 Ohio State Buckeyes @ No. 16 Northwestern Wildcats  
7:00 p.m. CDT ABC

College GameDay is going to be in Evanston, Ill. for this Top 20 matchup. Ohio State has won 28 of the last 29 between these two teams, with Northwestern's only win during that stretch coming in 2004. To make matters worse, Northwestern's current coach, Pat Fitzgerald, has been outscored by 130 points the three times his Wildcats have played the Buckeyes.

These two teams have had one common opponent this year, as both played at California in nonconference play. Northwestern came out with a 44-30 win in their opening game of the year and Ohio State, without Braxton Miller, won 52-34.

This will be Northwestern's first real test of the year. They haven't played as well as some would have hoped in their nonconference schedule, which included a narrow 14-point win over Maine. Ohio State is coming off a win against then-No. 23 Wisconsin in their toughest game to date. Ohio State had a 17 point lead going into the fourth quarter, but had to stop Wisconsin in the final minute to win 31-24.

Look for a lot of running in this game. Both teams average over 200 yards a game on the ground. But the key in this game will be Northwestern's defense against Braxton Miller. If they can contain Miller, they will have a chance, but if they can't, Ohio State will run away with this game and Miller will get his name back into the Heisman race.

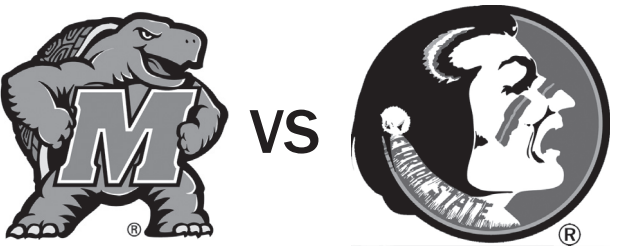


No. 15 Washington Huskies @ No.5 Stanford Cardinal  
8:30 p.m. CDT ESPN

Washington has made this game much more important than it looked at the beginning of the season. After wins against Boise State and at Illinois, the Huskies, who started the season unranked, have jumped all the way to No. 15 in the AP Top 25.

Stanford has already notched two conference wins this year. One of them came against then-No. 23 Arizona State. In that game Stanford dominated the first three quarters and turned it into a 42-28 blowout. To be successful against Washington, Stanford must be able to run the ball between the tackles.

The key in this game will be how these two teams handle each others' styles. Stanford is known for its power running game, but junior quarterback Kevin Hogan has improved throwing the ball this year, already amassing 832 yards and completing 63.2 percent of his passes. Washington's offense is the exact opposite of Stanford's power running game. They like to spread it out and get their athletes in space. Washington handled Stanford's physicality last year and upset the Cardinals 17-14.

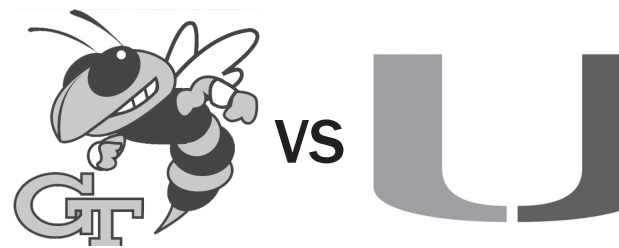


No.25 Maryland Terrapins @ No.8 Florida State Seminoles  
11:00 a.m. CDT ESPN

Jameis Winston comes into the biggest game of his young career on everybody's Heisman radar. The freshman quarterback has already thrown for 1,048 yards, but this will be his toughest test so far. He'll face a Maryland defense that is allowing just 10.3 points a game, including a shutout of West Virginia.

Besides West Virginia, Maryland's schedule this year has lacked notable games. The same can be said for Florida State, although they have played two conference games this year. This is both teams' first true test, and we will be able to tell more about each team after this game.

Even though both teams do rank in the Top 20 in total offense, and both teams defenses have played very well this year, this game will be decided by Winston. Maryland, even though they are 4-0 and ranked, cannot score with Florida State. But if Maryland's defense can keep him in check, and force some turnovers, the Terrapins have a shot at this game. Florida State is at home, so look for them to play well and run away with this game.

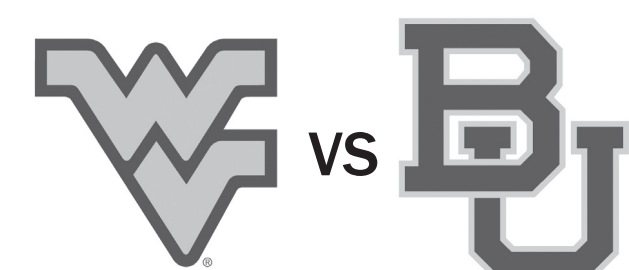


Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets @ No.14 Miami (FL) Hurricanes  
2:30 p.m. CDT ESPN

Even though Miami's senior quarterback Stephen Morris has been hobbled by an ankle injury, he set his season high in passing yards with 222 yards last week. Miami, who is off to their best start in nine years — thanks to an upset of then-No. 12 Florida earlier in the year — has climbed up to No. 14 in the country. A lot of that is thanks to an offense that is 10th in the nation in scoring, averaging 45.3 points per game.

Like every Paul Johnson team, Georgia Tech runs the football, a lot. They're averaging 291.3 yards a game with their run heavy option offense. Even with all his success at Georgia Tech, one team Jonson has struggled with consistently has been Miami. He is 1-4 against the Hurricanes so far at the Yellow Jacket helm. Three of those losses have been by 16 points or more.

Miami has won the last four between these teams. In that streak Miami has handled Georgia Tech and their option offense well, holding them to just 16 points a game during the winning streak. They will have to continue that defensive success if they want to move to 5-0 on the year.



West Virginia Mountaineers @ No.17 Baylor Bears  
7:00 p.m. CDT FOX Sports 1

When these two teams get together, you can be for certain it will be an offensive game. West Virginia won a 70-63 game last year; a game in which a receiver from each team topped 300 yards receiving. West Virginia hasn't scored at that pace this year, but Baylor has been racking up points, averaging 69.7 points per game so far.

Even though Baylor's offensive stats are impressive, all of that has come against Wofford, Buffalo and Louisiana-Monroe. So this will be a "how good are you really?" game for Baylor. While the Bears will probably still put up a lot of points, it will not continue at this current pace.

West Virginia's defense last year was a mess from top to bottom, but last week against Oklahoma State the defense spurred a 30-21 upset of the Cowboys. While Oklahoma State had success in the air, the Mountaineers held them to a paltry 2.8 yards per carry. Stopping junior Lache Seastrunk should be priority number one for West Virginia. Doing that will give them a chance to have their offense win it for them.

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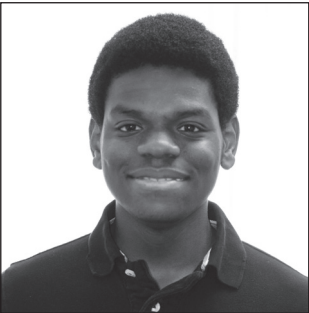
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# Head to Head: K-State vs. Oklahoma State

GUEST COLUMNIST: CHRISTIAN FAVALORA, SPORTS EDITOR, THE DAILY O'COLLY



Sean Frye

The K-State Wildcats obviously haven't gotten off to the best of starts in 2013. The losses to North Dakota State and Texas certainly weren't pretty. But Oklahoma State's loss to West Virginia is the biggest upset of any team in the Big 12 this season. North Dakota State is a legitimate team that would probably end up in a late December to early January bowl game if it played at the FBS level. West Virginia may be lucky to get to a bowl this season, and its defense swallowed up J.W. Walsh and company. Although K-State's defense hasn't been that successful this year, it's still better than West Virginia's.

Both teams are clearly discovering new issues week by week, but there's a hard line here. Oklahoma State's loss to a Big 12 team can't possibly be worse than a Big 12 team's loss to an FCS school. Regardless of North Dakota State's ability, K-State is at a major advantage in terms of recruiting, competition opportunities and resources. That loss puts a black mark on the conference, which is already suffering a slump of its own. Give West Virginia's defense credit. It held OSU to 433 yards of offense, but that's only 41 yards below the team's average — not crippling defense. And J.W. Walsh came near his personal rushing average on a day when he never looked comfortable on the field. That said, K-State's defense comes in below the Mountaineers in almost every major category: points against, total defense, pass efficiency defense and rushing defense. All things being equal, Walsh and company should put up above average numbers Saturday. Playing in Boone Pickens Stadium makes a big difference, too. K-State's defense hasn't played at this pace yet, so it should be a good test for the defensive line.



Sean Frye

Obviously Boone Pickens Stadium makes a world of difference. But the entire Big 12 is full of loud atmospheres. The Wildcats are used to competing in loud atmospheres and have enjoyed great success in them. Just look at our win at Oklahoma last year. And the Cowboys made Clint Trickett, an average quarterback at best for West Virginia, look like a superstar. What do you think an arm like Jake Waters, the nation's best junior college quarterback last year who threw for 275 yards against Texas, can do to the Cowboys weak secondary?

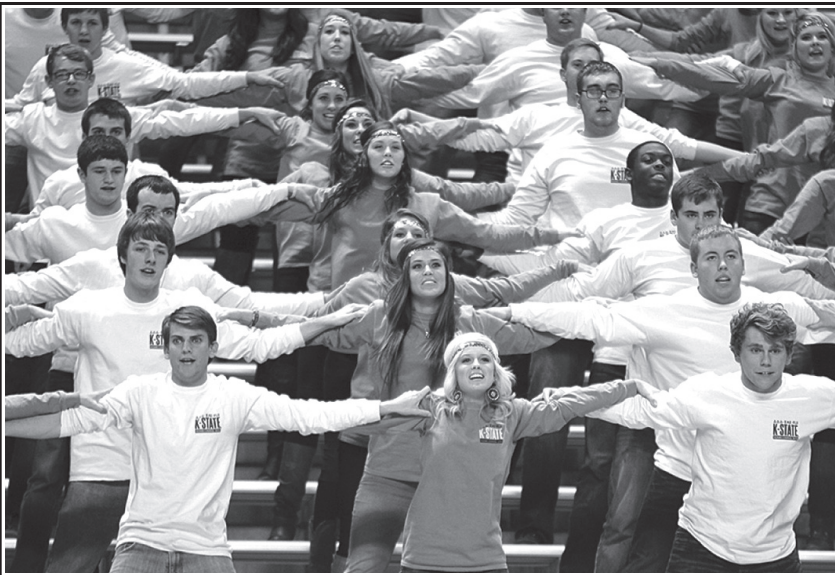
I think you're raising questions about the wrong secondary. The Cowboy secondary's poor performance a year ago still comes up in conversation and that's fair, most people blame Justin Gilbert. But this is not last year's secondary, and Gilbert looks like an altogether different player. He has two interceptions and the rest of the defensive backs have added four more. OSU is on the positive side of the turnover battle, K-State is not.



Sean Frye

Turnovers are certainly a huge part of any team's success. And the fact that K-State has struggled with turnovers is a huge reason the Wildcats are 2-2 and not undefeated, like they could be. But, struggling with turnovers is also very uncharacteristic of Bill Snyder coached teams. Snyder preaches to death the fundamentals and controlling the things you can control. So especially with the Wildcats coming off a bye week, you've got to think that Snyder has coached up the Wildcats to turn the ball over less. And that will certainly bode well heading into Stillwater.

It's hard to predict what any game will be like against K-State. Snyder has a way of getting the most out of his players and taking the most out of the other team. The biggest question mark to me is whether Snyder can get his team to run the ball more successfully than the Cowboys. After last week, that ought to come easy, and I think it would be the linchpin in a game plan designed for an upset.



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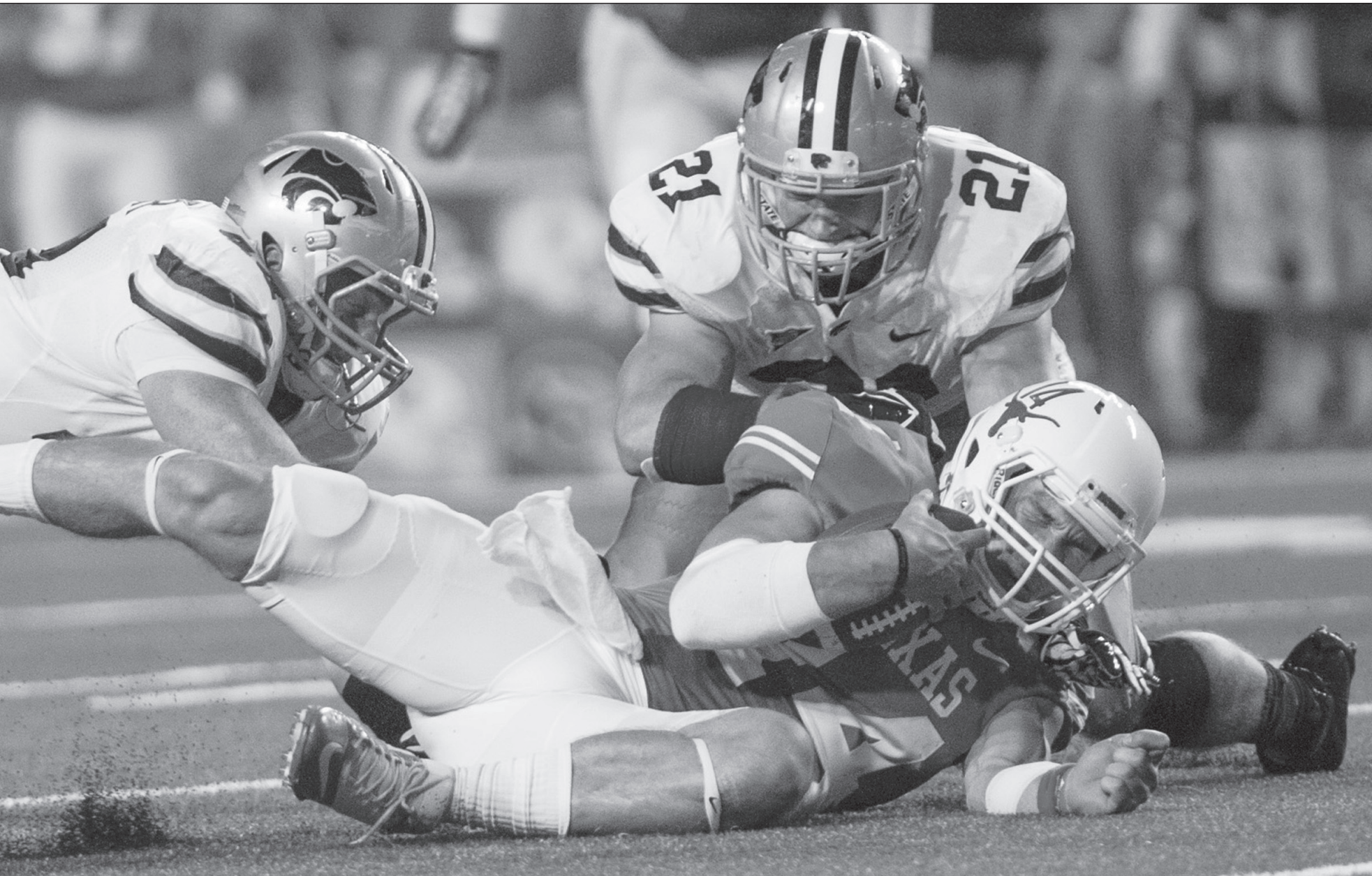
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PROFILE

JONATHAN TRUMAN



K-State junior defensive end **Ryan Mueller** and junior linebacker **Jonathan Truman** tackle Texas junior quarterback **David Ash** on Sept. 21. Truman said the team needed to remember how it felt to lose to keep it from happening again.

**Corbin McGuire**  
staff writer

Remember the pain. That is junior linebacker Jonathan Truman's message to players on K-State's football team who weren't around in 2009 and 2010 when the team went 6-6 and 7-6, respectively.

The former walk-on was a redshirt in 2010, but he said he remembers the six losses during that season, as well as how tough the seven wins came.

"Just building and improving on a football team, and trying to make something great happen," Truman said.

With the Wildcats sitting at 2-2 for the first time since 2009, Truman said the message is becoming louder and shared more frequently.

"Just remember how it feels to lose," Truman said. "Because if you don't remember how it feels to lose and really feel that pain, then you're not going to stop it from happening again."

The losses are especially difficult to deal with after the past two seasons of double-digit wins.

"Really the past couple of years we've really gotten used to winning," Truman said. "And when games were close, we always somehow pulled it out and somehow won. When there are games that are close

and we end up losing, it's kind of a shock to us. Right now, we're just handling it in a way of just getting it all together."

Vocalizing this message, however, is difficult for Truman, who is in his first season as a starter.

"Yeah, that's something that I always need to improve on is really being more vocal, and it's something that is kind of out of my comfort zone," Truman said, who played mainly special teams in 2011 and 2012.

"We talk about it. I said it's important for some of the guys who weren't around when we were 7-6 that they know what it feels like to lose so that it doesn't happen again."

K-State head coach Bill Snyder said he's seen more vocal leadership from older players referencing the 2009 and 2010 seasons since the loss to Texas.

"We did a little drill in which everyone stepped up and said, 'Here's what I haven't done as well as I need to, and here's what I'm going to try and do to help this football team,'" Snyder said.

Truman said small changes like, "watching film on our own when we have spare time instead of only when we have mandatory meetings," are some of the "little things" that could get K-State back to where they've been accustomed to the past two seasons.

Even if Truman's vocal leadership isn't where he wants it to be, his leadership ability is still effective according to sophomore safety Dante Barnett.

"We see his leadership but he's not that much of a vocal leader," Barnett said. "Like I said about [Lockett], Jonathan just tries to show us what to do and the ways to do it instead of yelling, then getting us hyped about it."

One way or the other, Truman said he is trying to "get everybody on the right side of the fence."

"As long as everybody is on one side of the fence, we can do great things," Truman said. "I think it comes down to some of the new guys that you talk about that might be on the other side of the fence just kind of walked into a winning program. Some people might not know what it takes to win. They just kind of walked in and started winning, and thought that it might just be handed to them."

Don't confuse Truman's words for panic, however.

"It's natural for us to be bothered by something like that but I'm not here to lick my wounds and cry about anything," Truman said. "We're moving on. What's done is done, and we're looking forward."

According to Truman, what it boils down to is players'

willingness to follow the leaders who've been a part of the building process at K-State, and know what it takes to win.

"With great leaders, you

have to have great followers as well," Truman said. "Not everybody can be a leader and not everybody can be a follower. With leaders, with whatever

they're trying to say, the followers have to do it, and that's how great teams are formed is when everybody can work together."

ANALYSIS | Loss on Saturday could end Big 12 title hopes for both teams

**Continued from page 1**

quarterback J.W. Walsh, whose dual-threat capability has him ranked fourth in the conference in total yards per game with 299.5.

Oklahoma State head coach Mike Gundy also employs the spread no-huddle offense, as do most Big 12 teams. That will be one of the biggest obstacles for the Wildcats to overcome on Saturday.

"I would say their tempo just

because they are faster than any team that we have faced this year," sophomore defensive back Dante Barnett said. "But every team in the Big 12 has a fast tempo and a spread offense. So I feel like we have been preparing all year for this."

Ultimately, both K-State and Oklahoma State are coming off losses, and both teams are looking to get their season back on track. A win on Saturday for either

side could set the tone for the entire season, while a loss would likely bury any chance of winning the Big 12.

"We are angry after a loss, so I would assume that they are angry after a loss and motivated like we are," sophomore kicker Jack Canale said. "I expect a good game, and we expect them to be the team that everyone thinks that they are. It is going to be a good challenge for us."

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